

West Texas A&M
Band Camp
Information

2010



GENERAL INFORMATION

About WTAMU Band Camp

- The camp is the only two-week band camp of its kind in the state of Texas.
- More than 1000 middle school and high school students will register for the WTAMU camp.
- The camp also brings in a teaching staff of more than 90 with members of the WTAMU faculty along with high school and middle school directors from across the state.
- CSISD took 100 students to the camp last year.
- This year's camp is scheduled for July 11-24.

Transportation to Camp

- 3 Buses and a 16 foot truck for luggage
- The directors will be driving.
- Free - No transportation fees are charged to the students.

CSISD Directors Attending

- Mr. Montgomery
- Mr. Dixon
- Mr. Seale
- Mrs. Truitt

Scholarships – CSISD

- Criteria
 - Did they participate in fundraising with the band?
 - Are they registered for the camp?
- Amount
 - Depends on the school and the number of students attending.
 - This year, we will send their check directly to the camp to offset registration fees.

Fundraisers to Help Lower the Cost

- Butterbraid Fundraiser will begin in late April.
- Candle Fundraiser in March



Auditions

- Audition music is online at
 - <http://www.wtamu.edu/academic/fah/mus/summer/band/>
 - Current 6th & 7th graders will audition on middle school/junior high audition music
 - Current 8th graders will audition on high school audition music
- Auditions are the first day. Students are placed in bands according to their auditions.

Trip Home

- 2 day trip home due to leaving Canyon at 5:00 p.m.
- Hotel and Dinner at Golden Coral, \$30 per student (band directors will collect this fee prior to trip)
- We will staying at the Best Western Wichita Falls

Typical Day at Camp

- 9:00 – Full Band Class
- 10:20 – Full Brass
- 11:30 – Trumpet Class
- 12:30 – Lunch
- 1:30 – Afternoon Class
- 3:00 – Assembly
- 3:30 – Extra Class
- 6:00 – Dinner
- 7:00 – Evening Activities
- 10:30 – Curfew – check in at dorm; mandatory dorm meeting



Travel Itinerary

Saturday, July 10

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Meet at AMCMS band hall parking lot (off of Anderson St.) to pre-load the moving truck with all instruments and luggage except carry-on bags, travel money and registration information. Be certain to have name tags on all luggage and instruments.

Sunday, July 11

5:00 a.m. – Meet at AMCMS band hall

8:00 – Stop near Fort Worth for breakfast and break

10:00 – Stop for break

12:00 – Stop in Vernon for lunch and fuel the vehicles

2:00 – Stop for break

3:30 – Arrive in Canyon and check in to camp

Friday, July 23

4:00 p.m. – Check out of camp and leave for Wichita Falls

6:00 – Stop for break

8:30 – Arrive in Wichita Falls and check into hotel. Dinner at Golden Corral.

Saturday, July 24

9:00 a.m. – Leave for College Station

12:00 – Lunch and break

3:00 – Arrive back in College Station at AMCMS



Things to Bring

- € Clothes
 - Jeans, shorts
 - Shirts
 - Socks, underwear
 - Swimsuit (required for pool)
 - Concert Dress - black on bottom, solid white on top, dress shoes
 - Tennis shoes, flip-flops for pool area and dress shoes
 - "Camp Ball" attire (dance on last night – "dress up" is optional but many do)
- € Toiletries
 - Your usual stuff
 - Towel and wash cloth
 - Flip Flops for shared showers
- € Dorm Room
 - Sheets
 - Pillow
 - Blanket
 - Box Fan
- Music Related
 - Instrument (Snare Drum for percussionist)
 - Audition music
 - Music stand
 - Pencils
 - Luggage dolly for large instruments (highly recommended!!!)
 - Lock for locker (optional)
- € Money
 - Travel - 5 meals and snacks
 - Hotel on trip home, \$30 (pay band director before trip)
 - Buff Gold Card

Other Things to Bring - Optional

- € Box fan
- € Laundry detergent (in small, sealed container – please don't send the big "family size")
- € Bag for dirty clothes
- € Cell phone or phone card
- € Bus entertainment - MP3 Players, Discman, books, magazines
- € Money \$\$\$\$ for Camp Extras
 - Private lessons at camp are approximately \$15 per lesson
 - Recording and/or picture of band, approximately \$10 - \$25 each
 - Recreational activities – bowling and racquetball have small fees
 - TEXAS Musical and Wonderland Amusement Park, around \$20 each
 - Buffalo Golf Card (again, easier than carrying cash)



Important Addresses & Contact Information

West Texas A&M University Band Camp

WTAMU Box 60879
Canyon, TX 79016
806-651-2828

Buff Gold Card Office

Monday-Friday, 8:00am - 5:00pm
806-651-4653

Best Western Northtown Inn

1317 Kenley Avenue
Wichita Falls, TX 76306
940-766-3300

Director Contact Information

Michael Dixon, AMCMS Band Director
Cell 979-575-1294
mdixon@csisd.org

Mr. Montgomery, CSMS Band Director
mmontgomery@csisd.org



Q & A

Travel Related Questions

Q: Is the bus a school district bus or a chartered bus?

A: The buses are school district buses with air conditioning. Mr. Dixon, Mr. Seale and Mr. Montgomery are driving (they have their CDL licenses).

Q: How much does the transportation to camp cost?

A: Free, the school district provides transportation.

Q: Why are we staying in a hotel on the drive home?

A: We will be leaving camp around 5:00 p.m. on Friday. To drive straight through would put us getting back to College Station around 3:00 a.m. Parents and directors have agreed that everyone would be safer (more rest, more daytime travel, etc.) if we spend the night and continue the trip home on Saturday – arriving in College Station around 3:00 p.m.

Q: Hotel on trip home... how many to a room/bed? How is that assigned?

A: Four kids to a room. JH boys with JH boys. HS boys with HS boys, etc... We keep them separated according to gender and age.

Q: What does the \$30 go to on the way home?

A: The money provides the students a dinner at Golden Corral in Wichita Falls, hotel stay and breakfast.

Money Related Questions

Q: What is a Buffalo Gold Card (or commonly called the Buff Gold Card)?

A: The buffalo gold card is like a debit card you can use to pay for everything you need on or around campus.

Q: Where can I use the Buff Gold Card on campus?

A: On campus, the card will be used to gain access into the library and activities center. It can be used to purchase snacks from a vending machine and any meal not served at the dining hall. In the JBK Student Center, the card can be used in a small convenience store, bookstore and at the Food Court. The Food Court includes a Chick-fil-A, Tortilla Fresca, Montague's Deli, and Grille Works, as well as a coffee shop. Laundry facilities will also accept the card.

Q: Where can I use the Buff Gold Card off campus?

A: The card can be used in almost every restaurant and shop within a close proximity to the campus. These places include United Grocery Store, McDonald's, Texaco Gas Station and Convenience Store, Subway and Pizza Hut

Q: I read about the Buff Gold card. I checked the WTAMU camp web site. It stated that you can receive a card once you have a student number. How are the cards handled for the 2 week campers? Presuming that it is a debit card and I won't be there on day one to process paperwork, I'm curious as to the acquisition process.

A: You can't put money on the card before camp. They get their student number at the onsite registration when they arrive. They will also receive their ID badges, etc. at that time. Send cash or check to put money on the Buff Gold Card. Because the camp is only 2 weeks, they did not have balances available on-line but you can call the Buff Gold Card Office, 806-651-4653, to check balances, activity and replenish funds (credit card over phone). Last year, if less than \$10 remained on the card when they checked out, it is forfeited to the school. If over \$10, the entire balance is mailed via check a few weeks after camp. You can call the office before the last day and add money to the card to ensure you receive all of your money back.



Q: Money issues, I read about the many opportunities to purchase meals outside the cafeteria as well as possible trips to musicals and amusement parks. How much do they need for such things?

A: We suggest \$100 for spending money. Extra money will be required for the hotel on the return trip (band directors will collect that prior to the trip).

TEXAS musical and Wonderland Amusement Park cost around \$20 each. They will purchase those tickets at the onsite registration/check-in.

Cash is needed for food at Wonderland, snacks, to replace a broken fan, etc. Remind your camper that fountain drinks are included with dining hall meals (sodas in vending machines are around \$2). FYI - If they lose their dorm room key, it was \$55 to replace it (lock and keys) and is arranged through the dorm RA.

Camp Related Questions

Q: Was there a registration form or do I register directly through the WTAMU website?

A: The official camp registration is online through their website.

Q: Why do I need a luggage dolly for my large instrument?

A: Students will be walking to and from many different facilities all over camp and a dolly can help tremendously.

Q: How could I use a box fan?

A: Students will be staying in many different dorms and some have A/C but some do not. During the day, the temperature will be hot and a box fan will help circulate air around their dorm room. At night, the temperature will usually fall below 70 degrees. The fan will draw in cool air at night.

Q: How can I contact my student during camp?

A: Some students bring cell phones or phone cards. If you cannot contact your student, please call the camp office at 806-651-2828 and leave a message or contact a director and we can find them and help.

Q: Can I send a package to my child?

A: Yes! If you would like to send a care package, mail it to the camp and they will deliver it to their dorm room. Many parents do this and it's kind of a fun way to say hello from home. Cards and letters are encouraged as well. Be certain to include your camper's name, dorm and room number.

Q: How much supervision is there for the younger campers? Are they on their own to wake up AND move? What is the in-dorm ratio of counselor to students?

A: The in-dorm ratio to counselors is about 1 counselor to 15-20 campers (about 8-10 rooms). The counselors are responsible for waking up the students to make sure they get to class. If they don't show up to their first class, the Head of the Camp hunts them down. There is also a counselor that is up roaming the hallways every night to make sure they don't leave their room. There is always someone monitoring the entrance door to the dorm as well. The counselors also roam the campus during the day to watch the kids. The kids have several attendance check-ins throughout the day: First morning class, first afternoon class (after lunch), late afternoon class, 7:00 pm and 10:30 curfew and all-dorm meeting soon after.

Q: Are the trips to the TEXAS musical and Wonderland Amusement Park organized group activities? Do they make reservations prior to camp for these activities?

A: Tickets for the TEXAS musical and Wonderland Park must be purchased at the onsite WTAMU registration when the campers arrive. Cost is about \$20 each. These are optional but those attending do go as a group.

Q: Do they have anywhere they can lock their wallets since spending opportunities abound?

A: Their room would probably be the best place to keep their money. There are also lockers available in the music buildings that are available on a first come - first serve basis, and require a combination lock.



Q: How are dorms assigned? Specifically curious about the dorms without A/C? Does that mean an open window?

A: Dorms are assigned according to grade levels. They put HS students on the opposite side of campus from the JH students. You sign up for a dorm mate on your application. Make sure your dorm mate puts your name on their application as well.

Every dorm has its outside doors locked at all times, except the door by the lobby, which is monitored by an RA. The dorm rooms do have a window with a screen. If they don't have AC, campers usually place a box fan in the window. Their dorm mate will place their fan in the room to help circulate the air as well. Fortunately, during the summer it cools down considerably at night and they are not in their dorms during the day. Most of the dorms now have AC.

Last year, Jarrett Hall did not have AC and may not this year. It is best to bring a fan.

Note regarding dorm assignment confirmation – you should receive a confirming letter from the camp office prior to leaving for camp. It will note your dorm assignment and dorm mate assignment. Carefully check the information and contact the band camp office if there are problems. Unfortunately, last year, even though many registered early, the letters did not arrive until the Friday before the students left on Sunday.

Q: Band Concert Attire - is a white short sleeved, v-neck appropriate or are collars required?

A: Collars are required for guys, but a polo shirt would be appropriate.

Q: School rental instruments - my understanding is that my child will retain their instrument for band camp. Do they retain it through the summer?

A: All instruments rented through CSISD can be checked out before they leave for the summer (for camp and can practice over the summer). Check with your band director.

Q: What are the in-between weekend plans? Is this a good time for visits from parents? Will there be a concert to attend?

A: There is a concert both weekends (Saturday mid-weekend and Friday on the last day). It is a great time for parents to visit. If you go to the final concert, you could just have your child leave with you (make arrangements with your band director!!).

HELPFUL CAMP INFO AND REMINDERS

Compiled from experienced band camp parents.

Dorm mates - Learn to share, be kind and patient. You will be sharing a room with someone that your mother and father did not raise. Nor will they be there to discuss proper room maintenance or "sharing issues" with your dorm mate.

Laundry – Let them learn to do laundry. Send detergent and dryer sheets in sealed containers. Ziplocs or baggies for dryer sheets. No need for fabric softener. They'll do well to include the dryer sheet (or the soap). Last year, one young camper – having never been near a laundry room – placed his dirty clothes in the dryer presuming it to be a washer.

Clothes - Send fewer than you plan. They can do laundry during the middle weekend.

Appliances – Each dorm room has a micro-refrigerator/small freezer in each room. There are limited electrical outlets (remember that "sharing" comment before?), don't overload on the "must-have, can't-be-without" electronics from home.

Lobby - TV, pool table, etc. in dorm lobby. Oh yes, the RA is monitoring the dorm lobby and entrance door.

Activities center – pool, racquetball, bowling, basketball, and the all important "just hanging out" areas, etc.



Dances – Parents - prepare your hearts for first crushes (whether you hear about it or not).
Students - bring “cool” clothes.

Campus perimeter - The main drag is the highway through town. It is about the same speed and size (actually minus the continuous turning lane) of Southwest Parkway in College Station. Traffic signals and crosswalks are at the intersections.

Police patrol campus especially the dorm areas and monitor crosswalks and drivers’ speed. According to the campus safety office, patrols are increased for the camp.

Dining Hall recommendations from last year - Avoid the pizza and lasagna at the dining hall.

First night – get settled in bed quickly. Sure, it is tempting to stay up all night enjoying one huge sleepover. However, road weariness from riding the big yellow dog (aka School Bus) since 5:00 a.m., not eating well (yes, mom, I made healthy choices), late night dorm meeting, maybe even a case of the nerves about auditioning (you probably get the first audition time) and adjusting to dining hall food (see note above) can make for a weary camper with a noisy stomach. You are positioned in the bands according to your audition, not your stellar performance last school year.

Mom & Dad, my music is really hard – not like what we had last year! - The music will seem overwhelming but you’ll get the hang of it quickly.

The concerts are wonderful! They also offer the “opportunity” to buy CDs of the concerts (around \$10) and a panoramic photo of each band (\$25 and mailed to your home in a brown wrapper tube). They don’t take credit cards for these purchases. Cash is King. Prices quoted are from 2007.

They will probably be **homesick** the first several nights as they adjust. Remind them to rest and eat well or they WILL CRASH by day 2 or 3 (serious party people by day 4). We know kids that are just now getting comfortable with staying over at friends’ houses. This was a HUGE thing for them to go off for 2 weeks. With preparation from their parents (focus on all the fun you had today and all the fun you’ll have tomorrow), they managed well and were very proud of themselves, too.

They will make many new friends from all over Texas. They will have a blast. They will grow. They will learn more about music and about themselves.

I had the great opportunity to have meetings at WTAMU last year during camp. My husband and I were able to be there for the mid-weekend concerts (awesome), and even had the privilege of taking our son out to dinner. Also, he stayed overnight at our hotel with us but ONLY after he had secretly made certain that not much was going on and “no one” was at the dance anyway. With a good night’s rest, he was quickly ready to say bye and was in a big hurry to get back to camp and his friends.

If you are able to go, be certain to “**check out**” **your child through the dorm RA** (and let your band director know).

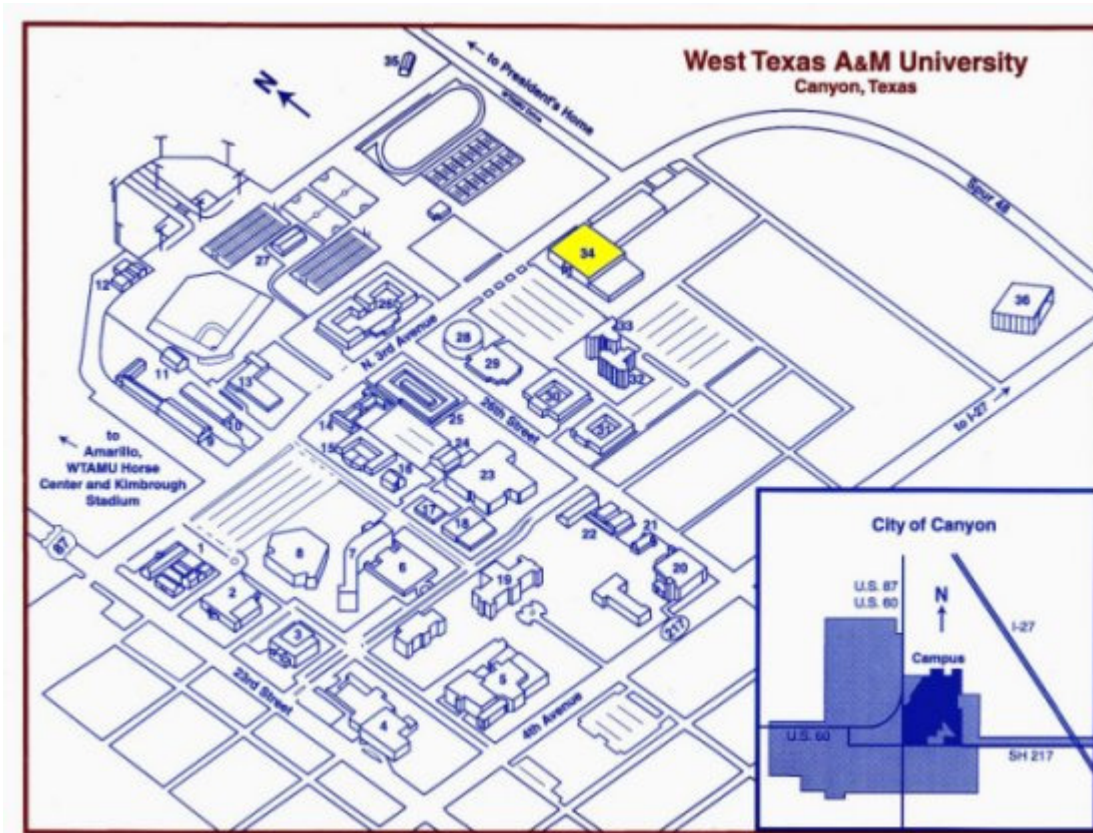
I was also there for the final concerts and caravanned with the group until the hotel (I drove on home from there). Again, wonderful!

Canyon Hotels - Canyon has 2 primary hotels near the campus (okay – in the town). They do have a Wal-Mart super store but it is out of the approved area for campers. They can check with their band directors if an emergency purchase is needed.

Amarillo Hotels - Amarillo is 15 minutes away from Canyon. About 9 or so hours from College Station via anything but the big, yellow dog.

Our band directors do a great job at organizing, managing and caring for our children. Overall, this is an incredible opportunity for growth in music comprehension, skills, friendships and maturity. Don’t miss it!

Map of the Campus



- 1. Stafford Hall
- 2. Fine Arts Building
- 5. Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum
- 6. Jack B. Kelley Student Center
- 8. Mary Moody Northern Hall
- 22. Cousins Hall
- 23. Cornette Library
- 26. Jarrett Hall
- 28. Dining Hall
- 30. Shirley Hall
- 32. Cross Hall
- 33. Jones Hall
- 34. Virgil Henson Activities Center



College Station ISD Band Camp Exit Strategy

Things to Know:

1. Please begin cleaning your room and packing on Thursday afternoon/evening in order to expedite leaving on Friday.
2. Pack your luggage carefully. You WILL NOT be able to get your luggage off the Penske moving truck Friday evening at the hotel.
3. Pack in your carry on bag for the bus and hotel.
 - a. Toiletries – toothbrush, hair brush, deodorant etc.
 - b. Clothes for Saturday's bus ride.
 - c. \$\$\$ for dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday.
 - d. iPod, books and entertainment for the bus.
4. The sooner everyone gets ready, the sooner we leave for Wichita Falls.

Loading Instructions:

1. Once your luggage is ready make sure you check out of your dorm room and return the following
 - a. Buff Gold Card
 - b. Room Key
2. Luggage will be loaded at the following times.
 - a. Jr. High Girls in Cousins – 1:30 p.m.
 - b. Jr. High Boys in Jarrett - 2:00 p.m.
 - c. HS Boys in Jarrett – 2:30
 - d. HS Girls in Jones - 3:00

